

## NOTES

### THE MESOAMERICAN *NEOMARICA* (IRIDACEAE), *N. VARIEGATA* HENRICH & GOLDBLATT, COMB. NOV.

The genus *Neomarica* (Sprague, 1928) comprises some 15 species of evergreen herbs of tropical forests and woodlands. Ravenna (1976) apparently merged it with *Trimezia* Herbert, a treatment we do not accept. The genus is distinctive in having a broadly winged flowering stem, the branches of the inflorescence often sessile and crowded at the stem apices, and a single large cauline leaf subtending and extending well beyond the inflorescence. *Neomarica* is centered in eastern Brazil but occurs widely in South America, with a single species extending through Mesoamerica into southern Mexico. In several regional floristic treatments for countries in Mesoamerica the native *Neomarica* has been treated as *N. gracilis* (Herbert) Sprague. The type of *N. gracilis*, a figure in *Curtis' Botanical Magazine* (66: tab. 3713. 1839), is believed to have been found in Brazil and it matches an eastern Brazilian species. It does not correspond with the Mesoamerican species in morphology of inflorescence, flower, or seed.

The single Mesoamerican species of *Neomarica* was validly described in 1843 by Martens & Galeotti as *Marica variegata*, based on Galeotti 5370, collected in Veracruz, Mexico. The type at the Herbarium du Jardin Botanique National de Belgique (BR) matches other collections of *Neomarica* from Mesoamerica in their sessile in-

florescence spathes and flower morphology. *Variegata* is the only epithet available for the Mesoamerican *Neomarica* and the combination is made below.

***Neomarica variegata*** (Martens & Galeotti) Henrich & Goldblatt, comb. nov. *Marica variegata* Martens & Galeotti, Bull. Acad. Roy. Sci. Belgique 10: 112. 1843. TYPE: Mexico. Veracruz: Zacuapán, Galeotti 5370 (BR, holotype).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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- SPRAGUE, T. A. 1928. *Marica* and *Neomarica*. Kew Bull. 1928: 278–281.
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